THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 7th July 1952.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras, at half past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

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I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Improvement of rural roads in Rayalaseema.

* 44 *Q.*—SRI K. V. VEMA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether there is any special scheme for the improvement and extension of rural roads in the districts of Rayalaseema?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—" There is no special scheme for the formation and improvement of village roads in the Rayalaseema districts except the five-year plan of Post-War Road Development and the District Boards' programmes of improvements to village communications."

SRI K. V. VEMA REDDI:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I know what is the length of the roads to be formed under the Five-Year Post-War Road Development Scheme in each district of Rayalaseema? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member may put a separate question."

* 45 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member Dr. P. Varadarajulu Naidu is not putting his question. Therefore, I pass on to the next question."

Legal assistance to Harijans.

* 46 *Q.*—SRI M. RAJESWARA RAO:—Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of (1) criminal and (2) civil cases in which Harijans were given legal assistance in 1951–52; and

(*b*) the quantum of aid given?

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO:—" (*a*) Nil.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

SRI A. RATHINAM:—" Are the Government aware that the mirasdars are framing criminal charges against some Harijans in villages and, if so, may I know what action the Government have taken to extend the privilege of State aid to Harijans? "

[7th July 1952

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" The position is that the Government have issued orders that ordinarily no State aid need be given to Harijans in legal proceedings except to the extent provided in rule 157 of the Criminal Rules of Practice. But whenever, in a criminal case, the Collector considers that the Harijans specially deserve legal aid, he should report the case to the Government with details of cost involved, for orders. No such aid was given to Harijans in 1951–52."

SRI P. VENKATASUBBAYYA :—" Is there any law providing for legal assistance to the Harijans?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Sir, may I know whether there were no criminal or civil cases against the Harijans in 1951–52?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" There have been no orders regarding civil cases. As regards the criminal cases, only where the Collector has made a recommendation, the Government have to pass orders. No such occasion arose in 1951–52."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister means that no cases have been brought to the notice of the Government or that they refused to give aid, although the Government Order says that aid must be given in all reasonable matters?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" There was no occasion to refuse, but there were no cases in which the Government had recommendations from the Collectors which were considered reasonable."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I take it then that there was not even a single case in which a Collector considered there was a reasonable case for giving aid?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" There was no reasonable case which required help."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the fact that the purpose of the Government Order for giving aid to the Harijans is practically nullified if during the course of a long year, the Government had no occasion to give legal aid to the Harijans?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" I may inform the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition that the Government give very sympathetic consideration to every request made by the Collector in this regard."

SRI M. RAJESWARA RAO :—" In view of the large number of cases in which the Harijans are unnecessarily involved, will the Government consider the desirability of entrusting such cases to the Public Prosecutors and Assistant Public Prosecutors?"

7th July 1952]

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" It depends on the recommendation of the Collector of the district."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know the procedure followed by the Government before such legal assistance is granted? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" The procedure is that the Collector makes a recommendation and the Government decide on the request of the Collector."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I ask whether the Government will instruct the Collectors to be liberal in their recommendations? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" They are following the policy of the Government which is liberal."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" May I know the grounds on which the Collector sends his recommendations for legal assistance in such cases? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" The Government have directed that whenever in a criminal case launched against Harijans by Caste Hindus or by others, the District Collector considers that the Harijans are specially deserving of legal aid in the interests of justice, he should report the facts of the case to the Government, setting out the need for legal aid at Government cost and specifying the probable expenditure to be borne by the Government, and if the Government approve of the proposal, the District Collector should arrange for such legal aid being given."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" Is State aid given to hill tribes also? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" I want notice."

SRI MANJAYA SHETTY :—" Will the Government consider the granting of legal aid to poor people apart from Harijans? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" I suppose that in accordance with rule 157 of the Criminal Rules of Practice, there is already a provision for such legal assistance in deserving cases."

SRI P. THIMMA REDDI :—" The lands of the Harijans are being encroached upon by political sufferers in West Godavari and other districts. Has it come to the notice of the Government and is help being given to the Harijans to defend themselves against these political sufferers? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" In regard to civil cases, no orders have been passed by the Government."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I know whether the Government will call for information in how many cases the Harijans applied for legal aid from the State? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" The Government will consider the suggestion."